

## Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /057 W

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P R 301511Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8998

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANSALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0478

PANAMA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: FONMIN SEEKS REASSURANCE ON US COMMITMENT

1. AT RECEPTION OF U.S. BUSINESS GROUP AT PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S RESIDENCE JAN 28, FONMIN ALEJANDRO MONTIEL INQUIRED OF POLOFF ABOUT REASONS FOR ASST. SEC. ROGERS PLANNED VISIT TO MANAGUA ON JANUARY 31. FONMIN SAID HE HOPED THAT ROGERS HAD COME TO REASSURE NICARAGUA ABOUT US SECURITY COMMITMENTS IN WAKE OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. HE DESCRIBED NICARAGUA AS "FEELING CUT AWAY AND DRIFTING" AS A RESULT OF GROWING DOUBTS ABOUT THE US WILL TO RESIST EVEN THE MOST BLATANT MANIFESTATIONS OF CUBAN AGGRESSION. NICARAGUAN DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY PREMISES WERE BEING ERODED BY THIS PERCEPTION OF WEAKENING US RESOLVE, HE SAID, AND ITS ANXIETY OVER THE SITUATION WAS EXACERBATED BY THE LACK OF ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES.

2. POLOFF REPLIED THAT CENTRAL AMERICA WAS VASTLY DIFFERENT THAN AFRICA AS AN AREA OF US PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT CONCERN SO THAT  
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WHILE GON'S APPREHENSION MIGHT BE UNDERSTANDABLE UNDER THE CIR-

CUMSTANCES, IT WAS BASED ON SOMEWHAT SPECIOUS REASONING. POLOFF SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ROGERS HAD NO RIGID AGENDA IN MIND FOR THE MEETING, AND WAS INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN EXCHANGING IMPRESSIONS ON A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS WITH MONTIEL AND PRESIDENT SOMOZA. POLOFF ASSURED FONMIN THAT HIS CONCERNS WOULD BE CONVEYED TO ASST SEC ROGERS BEFORE THE MEETINGS.

3. COMMENT: IT IS APPARENT BY THIS AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH GON OFFICIALS RECENTLY THAT THEY ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING IMPLICATIONS OF ANGOLAN AFFAIR AND ARE DEEPLY TROUBLED BY WHAT THEY FIND. AS SUGGESTED IN AMBASSADOR'S LAST CABLE TO ASST SEC ROGERS, A STATEMENT FROM HIM CLARIFYING THE US HEMISPHERIC COMMITMENT WOULD BE HIGHLY WELCOME AND MAY BE CONSCIENTIOUSLY SOUGHT AT THE JANUARY 31 MEETING.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 30 JAN 1976  
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**TAGS:** OVIP, PFOR, NU, US, (ROGERS, WILLIAM D)  
**To:** STATE PANAMA  
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